

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANTO 02642 172259Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 INRE-00 SSO-00 /057 W
-----006623 172303Z /66

O R 172230Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4571
INFO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 2642

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, DR
SUBJECT: MILITARY INTERVENTION IN ELECTORAL PROCESS: SITUATION
REPORT

SITREP AS OF 6PM LOCAL, MAY 17

1. WITH INTERVENTION OF ARMED FORCES IN CENTRAL ELECTORAL BOARD (JCE) WHILE THEY DENY THAT COUP HAS TAKEN PLACE, DOM REP WAITS EXPECTANTLY FOR SOME RESOLUTION OF CURRENT CRISIS, OUTLINES OF WHICH ARE NOW NOWHERE APPARENT. MUCH ATTENTION IS FOCUSED ON COMPETING CLAIMS BY PRO-BALAGUER CIVILIANS AND MILITARY AND BY PRD THAT EACH HAS WON THE ELECTIONS. PRESIDENT BALAGUER HAS YET TO MAKE ANY PUBLIC STATEMENT; INDEED ONLY GOVERNMENT STATEMENT IN 24 HOURS SINCE ELECTORAL INTERVENTION WAS ARMED FORCES' BULLETIN OF THIS MORNING. MEANWHILE TOP LEADERS HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN MEETING CONTINUOUSLY.

2. LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THAT WHEN JCE CLOSED SOME 25 PERCENT OF VOTES HAD BEEN COUNTED AND PRD LED REFORMIST PARTY (PR) 326,000 TO 218,000 VOTES. JCE, HOWEVER, WAS EXTREMELY SLOW SOURCE OF RESULTS THROUGH LONG EVENING HOURS, LIMITING ITSELF TO READY ONE BY ONE RESULTS FROM 5,500 POLLING PLACES. NEVERTHELESS THESE READINGS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SANTO 02642 172259Z

IN ALMOST EVERY CASE SHOWED PRD WITH AMPLE LEAD WHICH IT APPEARED TO MAINTAIN UNTIL HALT OF BROADCAST RESULTS AT 4AM.

3. PRD AND PR SOURCES HAD MUCH MORE COMPLETE RESULTS. PRD NOW SAYS PUBLICLY IT WON ELECTIONS BY REPORTS OF ITS OWN DELEGATES BY 1.2 MILLION VOTES TO 600,000. PR SOURCE LOCATED AT PARTY ELECTION CENTER SAYS CONFIDENTIALLY THAT BY 3:00 AM TODAY PARTY'S

OWN TALLIES SHOWED THAT WITH ABOUT ONE MILLION VOTES COUNTED, PRD LED BY SOME 180,000 VOTES. SAME SOURCE REPORTS THAT WHEN PARTY LEADERS AT ELECTION CENTER DETERMINED PRD WOULD WIN, ORDER WENT OUT TO PARTY OFFICES THROUGHOUT COUNTRY TO DO WHATEVER WAS REQUIRED TO ALTER THE RESULTS AT LOCAL ELECTORAL BOARDS.

4. EMBASSY HAS HEARD IN COURSE OF DAY THAT WITHIN REFORMISTA RANKS, RUMOR SPREAD THAT STRONG PRD LEAD BEING ANNOUNCED OVER RADIO AND TV WAS DUE TO PRD-SPONSORED FRAUD AND THAT JCE ITSELF WAS RESPONSIBLE. THIS RUMOR FED BY FACT THAT DURING EARLY VOTING HOURS CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION DEVELOPED WHEN IT BECAME KNOWN THAT LARGE NUMBERS OF DULY REGISTERED VOTERS FOUND THEIR NAMES MISSING FROM COMPUTERIZED VOTE LISTS SUPPLIED BY JCE TO EACH POLLING PLACE. JCE IMPROVISED BY ANNOUNCING THAT VOTERS COULD VOTE EVEN IF NAME DID NOT APPEAR ON LIST, BUT EMBASSY OFFICERS OBSERVED THAT CONFUSION REIGNED AT MANY POLLING PLACES BECAUSE OF JCE COMPUTER SLIPUP. IN MANY POLLING PLACES MILITARY INTERVENED TO BREAK UP HEATED DISPUTES OVER RIGHT OF INDIVIDUALS TO VOTE. THIS RUMOR, OF COURSE, MAY BE EX POST FACTO AND SELF-SERVING RATIONALIZATION OF PRESENT STATE OF AFFAIRS.

5. WITH NO WAY TO TELL WHAT ACTUAL RESULTS WERE, PROGOVERNMENT ELEMENTS BEGAN CAMPAIGN TO DEMONSTRATE THAT BALAGUER HAD WON REELECTION. MILITARY AND POLICE PUT ON VICTORY DEMONSTRATIONS IN SEVERAL LOCATIONS. ALSO, SENIOR OFFICER WENT AROUND TO NEWSPAPERS TO CONVINCE THEM TO PUBLISH STORY THAT BALAGUER HAD WON ELECTION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SANTO 02642 172259Z

BY MARGIN OF 200,000 VOTES. WE ARE TOLD BY FAIRLY RELIABLE SOURCE THAT PRESIDENT BALAGUER HIMSELF HAD BEEN TOLD BY HIS ADVISORS THAT HE HAD WON BY A SIMILAR MARGIN, BUT PRESIDENT ASKED FOR RESULTS AS DECLARED BY JCE WHICH ARE NOT NOR ARE LIKELY TO BECOME AVAILABLE.

6. THE JCE HAS COMPLETELY CEASED TO FUNCTION, NATIONWIDE. JCE OFFICES ARE EMPTY AND CONTROLLED BY TROOPS. JCE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN MANUEL JOAQUIN CASTILLO, MAN TECHNICALLY IN CHARGE OF ENTIRE ELECTORAL PROCESS, WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO REACH. HIS HOME WAS DESERTED. ONE SOURCE REPORTED THAT MILITARY IS LOOKING FOR CASTILLO TO HAVE HIM OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCE BALAGUER VICTORY. EMBASSY IN SANTIAGO REPORTED ELECTORAL BOARD CHAIRMAN THERE WAS UNDER DETENTION BY MILITARY WHO SOUGHT TO FORCE HIM TO OFFICIALIZE ALTERED POLLING RESULTS IN COUNTRY'S SECOND LARGEST CITY. HE WAS LATER RELEASED BUT WENT INTO HIDING.

7. COMMENT. THERE APPEARS TO BE CONCERN BY MILITARY THAT THEIR ACTION NOT BE CONSTRUED AS A COUP D'ETAT BUT AS AN INTERVENTION TO GUARANTEE PUBLIC ORDER. THEY APPEAR TO BE MAKING FRANTIC EFFORTS TO LEGITIMIZE MOVE THROUGH ISUANCE OF ELECTION RESULTS FAVORABLE TO BALAGUER. AT THIS POINT FEW HERE WOULD FIND ANNOUNCEMENT OF PR

VICTORY CREDIBLE.

YOST

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SITREP, ARMED FORCES, INTERVENTION, ELECTION RESULTS, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SANTO02642
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780208-0741
Format: TEL
From: SANTO DOMINGO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780549/aaaabpew.tel
Line Count: 118
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1cebb39b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2662488
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MILITARY INTERVENTION IN ELECTORAL PROCESS: SITUATION REPORT SITREP AS OF 6PM LOCAL, MAY 17
TAGS: PINT, PINS, DR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1cebb39b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014